FOR MYSORE STATE

66—27-10-53.

RURAL WELFARE **(195 3) Department.**

Rt. **SERIES.** Copy

G.O. No. 360

Dated 5th March, 1953.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Harijan Welfare - Social Disabilities experienced by Scheduled castes and scheduled tribes - Questionnaire from Government of India - particulars furnished - papers Recorded.

QUESTIONNAIRE REGARDING SOCIAL DISABILITIES.

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1. Is there any legislative measure in force in the State for the removal of social disabilities from which the Scheduled Castes may be suffering? (please attach two copies of each of the relevant Acts?

The Government of Madras have passed the following enactments for the removal of social disabilities.

(i) Removal of Civil Disabilities Act, Act XXI of 1938 as mendmed by Act XI of 1947.

(ii) The Madras Temple Entry Authorisation Act V of 1947 as amended by Act XIII of 1949.

(Note: Two copies of each of the above Acts may be sent to the Government of India from the Secretariat as they are not available in this office.)

2. Are the offences committed under the above Legislations cognisable?

The offences committed under the above legilsations are cognisable.

3. What is the number of cases registered with the police under the above legislations during the period 1-10-51 to 30-9-52 where offences committed are cognisable?

4. How many cases referred to in 3 above were challanged by the Police?

5. How many cases challenged by the police resulted in (i) Compromise; (ii) Convictions and (iii) Acquittals.

please see separate statement enclosed.

6. How many suits werefiled in the courts under the above legislations during the period 1st October 1951, to 30th September 1952 where offences committed are not cognisable?

The offences committed under the above legislations are all cognisable.

But there is a Civil suit pending before the Sub-Judge, Tellichery of the Malabar District under the provisions of section

6 of the Madras Temple Entry Authorisation Act. No suits are reported to have been filed in any other district.

7. How many cases referred to in 6 above resulted in (a) Compromise (b) convictions and (c) acquittals.

The only case referred to above is still pending.

8. WHAT IS THE EFFECT OF THE ABOVE LEGISLATIVE MEASURES ON (i) GENERAL PUBLIC(ii) SCHEDULED CASTES.

(i) GENERAL PUBLIC: The majority of the General public welcome these legislative measures since they are enacted with a view to bring about social and economic uplift of the scheduled castes. The general public have also been impressed with the desirability of enforcing these measures and there have been no adverse criticism against the legialations from the public. The influence of the legislative measures are perceptible in a greater degree in the towns. But in the villages, however, it cannot be said that the social disabilities have completely faded out as the social customs are deep-rooted and cannot be done away within a short space of time.

(ii) THE SCHEDULED CASTES:

While there is a fear of law in the educated public the scheduled caste people in villages who are mostly uneducated are not bold enough to make proper use of these measures, without fear of incurring the displeasure of the general public. However there is a marked and general awakening among the scheduled castes. They are coming forward to assert their rights in all sphere of public activities. They are not able to avail themselves of the full scope of the benefits of the enactments on account of their poverty which has a retarding influence. The activities of the Harijan Welfare department also enabled the Harijans and other scheduled caste people to shake off their feeling of inferiority complex to a great extent and they are now gradually coming forward.

9.WHAT IS THE GENERAL PUBLIC OPINION REGARDING THE ASSIMILATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES IN SOCIETY AND THE REMOVAL OF SOCIAL DISABILITIES CAUSED BY THE PRACTICE OF 'UNTOUCHABILITY'.

...

The general public opinion is slowly changing in favour of assimilation of the scheduled castes in socity and the removal of social disabilities caused by the practice of untouchability. The efforts made by the various institutions and public men and the modern education have moulded public opinion in favour of the assimilation of Scheduled castes in Society. The right thinking men have realised that the practice of untouchability is a blot on the fair name of the country. They have come to believe that untouchability is a vicious feature tending to the disintegration of Hindu Society. It can be stated that the entire younger generation is of the above opinion. There is however, still a fairly good percentage of people who pin their faith in the old and antiquated customs.

10. What other measures in addition to the passage of above legislations have been adopted by the State Governments to train public opinion for the early removal of the practice of "untouchability" and the resultant social disabilities?

...

Besides the above legislations, the Government of Madras have ordered that all Collectors should Celebrate Harijan Day on every 30th of each month. (the date on which Mahatma Gandhi was assinated), and conduct meetings processions and temple entries and also interclass dining with the help of the non-official committees etc., public wells and tanks, public streets and public institutions are being thrown open on that day wherever restrictions are prevailing and Government are trying thus to eradicate the evil of untouchability. There are also Rural Welfare Meetings held in special areas where Harijan problems are specially attended to. Village vigilance committees are also formed in several places to work for the uplift of Harijans. With a view to accelerate the fusion of the Scheduled castes into the Higher and other civilised strata of Society, Harijan students are admitted in hostels of the Educational Institutions the entire expenses being met by the Government. In addition Boarding houses have been opened for Scheduled caste people where other Backward

Classes pupils (Non-Harijans) are also admitted upto 10 %. Co-education with caste Hindu boys and girls in all educational institutions is allowed.

The Government either refuse to grant, or withdraw recognition to schools which are inaccessible, or refuse admission to members of the scheduled classes. Grants to institutions are also not paid by the Government where such discriminations exist. Please see G.O. No.1446 Law(Education) dated 16-7-1935. In the selection of house sites to needy members of the Scheduled castes, sites as near the caste Hindu quarters as possible are selected with a view to minimise the evil of segregation and acquired at Government cost. Propaganda is also carried on through press and platform to train public opinion in this regard.

11. What is the extent of social disabilities experienced by the Scheduled castes in the State in respect of

(i) access to

(a) shops, public restaurants and hotels; and

(b) places of public entertainment;

(ii) (a) the use of wells, tanks and bathing ghats;

(b) Roads; and

(c) places of public resort

maintained wholly or partly out of state funds or dedicated to the use of the general public?

Legally, there is no bar to the access; but in actual experience except a few advanced and enlightended Harijans the majority of the Harijans are still afraid of making free use of these public institutions, they fear that any claim of right on their part would wound the feelings of the caste Hindus on whom they are depending for their livelihood.

12. What is the extent of social disabilities experienced by the Scheduled castes in the State in respect of.

(i) Free use of religious institutions:

Religious institutions in villages continue to be used by caste hindus only, while harijans still feel the social disability to entre public temples with free access though they cannot be prevented

from entering.

(ii) Riding on Horse Back: There are no social restrictions for Harijans and other scheduled caste people to ride on horse backs. This practice is also not vogue in several parts of the province except on festive occassions like marriages.

(iii) Wearing of ornaments: There are no such disabilities in regard to wearing of ornaments by scheduled castes women; but they cannot afford this due to their proverty.

(iv) Eating of ghee sugar etc; As the scheduled classes are mostly labourers, depending upon caste ryots for their wages in kind (food grains) they cannot afford eating of ghee, sugar and the like. But there are no social disabilities if they could afford these luxuries.

(v) Acquiring, holding and disposing of property:

There are no social disabilities in respect of these.

(vi) Residing and settling in any part of the State: These classes of people generally stick on to their native villages and eke out their livelihood labouring under the caste ryots of their own villages. There are no social disabilities for such of those who seek to reside and settle in any part of the State, but they still hesitate to live very near the caste Hindu quarters in villages for fear of harassment by the caste Hindus.

(vii) Practising any profession or earning or any occupation, trade or business?

The scheduled castes are mostly labourers depending upon the caste ryots. They get their requirements of fuel etc. from the nearby shrubs in waste lands. But there is no restriction on the practising of any profession or trade or business.

13. What is the approximate number of villages and towns where, on account of a very conservative outlook of the public, the social disabilities mentioned in items 11 and 12 above are practised to a large extent and where in the opinion of the State Government, special measures are required to be adopted to put an end to this social evil?

Conditions have changed for the better in Urban and semi urban areas. The progress is rather slow in rural areas. But there are no villages where due to extreme conservative outlook, the

the harijans etc., suffer from serious social disabilities and need special measures to protect their interests. The system of untouchability had been there from time immemorial and it has to be eradicated, not merely by legislation and special measures, but also by real change of heart on the part of the public. This change in outlook is slowly gaining ground and the social evil will gradually disappear in course of time.

14. What are the names of the towns (with a population of one lakh or more) covered by item 13 above?

NIL.

Questions 3 to 5.

Statement showing the number of cases filed under the provisions of (i) Removal of Civil Disabilities Act (ii) The Madras Temple Entry Authorisation Act during the period 1-10-1951 to 30-9-52, in Madras State, where offences committed are cognisable.

Name of District.	No. of cases registered with the police.	No. Challenged by the police.	Result of cases			
			Compromise.	Conviction.	Acquittal.	pending.
1. Anantapur						
2. Bellary						
3. Cuddapah						
4. Chittoor						
xx xx xx						
7. East Godavari*						
8. West Godavari*						
9. Guntur						
10. Krishna						
11. Kurnool						
xx xx xx						
15. Nellore						
xx xx xx						
25. Visakhapatnam						
26. Srikakulam						

* Reports not received.

/true copy/

Sd. x x x
for Director of Harijan Welfare.

T. B. Sambasivam
Superintendent.

R.W.D.IV.

Letter No.62271-R.W.IV/52-9., dated 16th January 1953.

To

The Assistant Commissioner for S.C's and S.T.'s

Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs,

New Delhi.

Sir,

Sub:- Social Disabilities experienced by S.C.'s ~~and~~ & V.S.T's - Questionnaire - Information - Furnished.

Ref:-1.Your Letter No.25(2)/52-SCST,dated 12-9-52.

2. My letter No.62271 R.W.IV/52-6,dated 2-1-1953.

I am directed to enclose the questionnaire ~~form~~ form annexed to your letter cited duly filled in.

Sd. x x x

Secretary to Government.

Annexure.

(Here entre pp. 1 to 6))

Letter No.62271 IV/52-10,dated 16-1-53.

Copy to the D.H.W.,Madras. He is requested to state whether there is any additional information to be forwarded to the Commissioner for S.C's V.S.T's based on the reports of the remaining two Collectors and also with reference to para 2 of Govt. of India letter dated 12-9-52.

2. Statement to Questions 3 to 5 Separate slips under each Act should be furnished.

O.N.

please see the D.H.Ws. reply furnishing the particulars on the questionnaire forwarded by the Govt. of India at pp. 39-49 c.f. It is seen that reports are still due from 2 of the Collectors and the report now furnished pertain to the remaining districts. As the

Govt. of India have already reminded more then once for this Govt.'s report, a report on the basis of the material available at pp. 41-49 (1106) c.f. may be furnished to the Govt. of India a further report being sent subsequently, if necessary. Atention in this connection is also invited to para 2 of the Govt. of India's letter on p. 1 c.f. The D.H.W. has not offerred any remarks. Presumably there are no disabilities of the kind referred to in the questionnaire which the S.T's are suffereing from in this State. Subject to orders the draft letter on p. 1 ante is submitted for approval.

As the Government of India have asked for a specific report on the question of social disabilities of S.Ts. it seems desirable that a categorical answer should be obtained from the D.H.W. in the matter. He may be asked to report specifically on this point.

T.K.S.
16-1-53.

Thro: R.W.VIII

/True copy/

T. Krishnan
SUPERINTENDENT.
28/8/53.

hch.12/8.
T. B. Samkandam
25/8.